Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 8 and 30. Please amend Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 28 as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A retroviral vector which undergoes promoter conversion comprising a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5; one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences; and a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein said partially deleted U3 region comprises a heterologous [DNA fragment which is target cell type restricted] promoter not related to the retroviral vector, said promoter regulating, after infection of the target cell, expression of at least one of the coding sequences being inserted into the body of the vector.

5. (Twice amended) The retroviral vector according to Claim 1, wherein [said heterologous DNA fragment is selected from the group consisting of regulatory elements, promoters and combinations thereof] the partially deleted U3 region comprises a regulatory element.

7. (Twice amended) The retroviral vector according to Claim [5] 6, wherein [said target cell specific] the regulatory elements and promoters are selected from the group consisting of Whey Acidic Protein specific regulatory elements and promoters, Mouse Mammary Tumor Virus specific regulatory elements and promoters, β-lactoglobulin and casein specific regulatory elements and promoters, pancreas specific regulatory elements and promoters, lymphocyte specific regulatory elements and promoters Mouse Mammary Tumor Virus specific regulatory elements and promoters conferring responsiveness to glucocorticoid hormones or directing expression to the mammary gland, and combinations thereof.

9. (Twice amended) The retroviral vector according to Claim 1, wherein each long terminal repeat region is derived from a retrovirus selected from the group consisting of Murine Leukaemia Virus, Mouse Mammary Tumor Virus, Murine Sarcoma Virus, Simian Immunodeficiency Virus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Human T Cell Leukaemia

Virus, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, Feline Leukaemia Virus, Bovine Leukaemia Virus, Mason-Pfizer-Monkey Virus, and combinations thereof.

11. (Twice amended) The retroviral vector according to Claim 1, wherein said coding sequence is selected from the group consisting of marker genes, therapeutic genes, antiviral genes, antitumor genes, cytokine genes, and combinations thereof.

12. (Twice amended) The retroviral vector according to Claim 11, wherein said marker or therapeutic gene is selected from the group consisting of β-galactosidase gene, neomycin gene, Herpes Simplex Virus thymidine kinase gene, puromycin gene, cytosine deaminase gene, hygromycin gene, secreted alkaline phosphatase gene, guanine phosphoribosyl transferase (gpt) gene, alcohol dehydrogenase gene, hypoxanthine phosphoribosyl transferase (HPRT) gene, and combinations thereof.

13. (Amended) The retroviral vector according to Claim 1, wherein ~~at least~~ one of said coding sequences is a retroviral ~~coding~~ sequence [for a retroviral protein, and the ~~retroviral sequence~~] is an altered or at least partially deleted retroviral gene.

15. (Twice amended) The retroviral vector according to Claim 1, wherein said partially deleted U3 region comprises a heterologous DNA fragment which is homologous to one or more cellular sequences or a part thereof.

17. (Twice amended) A retroviral vector kit comprising:
a retroviral vector which undergoes promoter conversion comprising a 5' ~~long~~ terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5; one or more ~~sequences~~ selected from coding and non-coding sequences; and a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein said deleted U3 region comprises a heterologous [DNA fragment which, when expressed, is target cell type restricted] promoter not related to the retroviral vector, said promoter regulating, after infection of the target cell, expression of at least one of the coding sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and

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a packaging ~~cell line harboring at least one retroviral or recombinant retroviral~~ construct ~~coding for~~ proteins required ~~for said~~ retroviral vector to be packaged.

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18. (Amended) The [retroviral vector system according to] kit of Claim 17 wherein the packaging cell line harbors retroviral or recombinant retroviral constructs coding for those retroviral proteins which are not encoded in said retroviral vector.

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19. (Twice amended) The [retroviral vector system according to] kit of Claim 17 wherein the packaging cell line is selected from the group consisting of psi-2, psi-Crypt, psi-AM, GP+E-86, PA317, and GP+envAM-12.

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21. (Twice amended) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the nucleotide sequences are selected from the group consisting of genes or parts of genes encoding for proteins, regulatory sequences and promoters, and combinations thereof.

22. (Twice amended) A recombinant [Recombinant] retroviral particle obtained by transfecting a packaging cell line of a retroviral vector kit according to Claim 17 with the retroviral vector according to Claim 17, and culturing the cells under suitable conditions.

23. (Twice amended) The retroviral provirus produced by infection of target cells with a recombinant retroviral particle according to Claim 22 whereby the heterologous [DNA fragment] promoter in the 3' long terminal repeat becomes duplicated during the process of reverse transcription in the target cell and appears in the 5' long terminal repeat as well as in the 3' long terminal repeat of the resulting provirus.

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28. (Amended) A producer cell producing a retroviral particle, the producer cell comprising a retroviral vector and a DNA construct coding for proteins required for the retroviral vector to be packaged, said retroviral vector comprising a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5; one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences; and a 3' long terminal repeat region, wherein the U3 region comprises a heterologous [DNA fragment which is target cell type restricted] promoter not related to